Prices of Edible Oils

6534. PROF. ASHOK ANAND RAO DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative prices of edible oils including vanaspati in January, 1991 and January, 1992;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to contain the prices of edible oils; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to augment the supply of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Comparative prices of edible oils including vanaspati in January 1991 and January 1992, are as under:

		January'91	*January'92*
1.	Groundnut Oil (Rs./quintal)	3850	3520
2.	Seasame Oil (Rs./quintal)	3050	2870
3.	Mustard Oil (Rs./15kg. tin) (Pakki Ghanni)	485	425
4.	Vanaspati(Rs./15kg. tin).	590	572

(b) Some of the steps taken to certain the prices of edible oils are continued exemption of vegetable oils from excise duty, reduction of stock limits of edible oils, permitting blending of any two edible oils, exemption of edible oils from the railway freight increase, intensifying dehoarding operations etc. Apart from this, the central Government has constituted a Cabinet Committee on prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supplies.

(c) For augmenting the supply of oils, in addition to laying emphasis on oilseed production programme as also oilseeds projects of NDB, the Government has decided to import edible oils to a limited extent. In addition, State Governments have also been authorised to directly import a quantity of 80,000 MT palmolein till 31.3.92.

Pilferage of Coal

6535.SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale pilferage of coal frrom collieries and rail wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the steps taken by the Government to stop such pilferage;

(c) whether the complicity of colliery staff and railway staff been observed in some cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against such erring individuals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.